

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FPC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AEC-11

ACDA-19 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /214 W

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R 081443Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA 375

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, GR

SUBJECT: STATUS PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION (PPC) PROJECTS

REF: ATHENS 738

VIENNA FOR DIETZ AND MIAA/BRUSSELS FOR AEC REP

1. DURING CALL AT PPC, GENERAL DIRECTOR GEORGE VAFIADIS TOLD USDOC'S STRAUSS LEON AND EMB OFFS THAT GOG EXPECTED SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE PPC \$470 MILLION 1974 INVESTMENT BUDGET REQUEST, BY SLOWING DOWN, SUSPENDING OR SCRAPPING CERTAIN PROJECTS AS PART OF GOG'S AUSTERITY DRIVE AGAINST EXCESS LIQUIDITY AND INFLATION.

2. VAFIADIS COMMENTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH BECHTEL FOR NUCLEAR POWER CONSULTING CONTRACT ARE HUNG UP ON CONTRACTUAL SEMANTICS, RATHER THAN ON SUBSTANTIVE
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DIFFERENCES. HE INDICATED THAT TALKS WOULD MOST

PROBABLY BE RESUMED BY VISIT HIGH LEVEL PPC OFFICIALS TO BECHTEL MANAGEMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO IN NEAR FUTURE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE DIFFERENCES WOULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

3. WITH RESPECT MODERN LOAD DISPATCH CENTER VAFIADIS STATED THAT PPC VIEWED LAST FALL'S TENDER AS "COMPETITION OF IDEAS" RATHER THAN AS REGULAR TENDER. (IN FACT THIS LABEL WAS EXPLICITLY CONTAINED IN BID INVITATIONS). DUE LACK OF PROVISION DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS BY PPC FOR BIDS SUBMITTED OCTOBER 31, BIDS ARE NOT COMPARABLE. PPC ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD CURRENTLY CONSIDERING SITUATION, AND VAFIADIS FELT PROBABLE DECISION WOULD BE TO REQUEST FIRMS WITH BEST FOUR BIDS (TWO US, TWO FOREIGN) TO SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS ON BASIS DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS. AT ANY RATE, BUDGET CUTBACKS HAVE CALLED INTO QUESTION URGENCY OF THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT, AND GOG INTERAGENCY DISCUSSIONS ON ITS SHORT-TERM FATE ARE IMMINENT.

4. THE 300 MEGAWATT OIL-FIRED UNIT (LAVRION III) FOR WHICH BIDS WERE RECEIVED DECEMBER 1973 MOST LIKELY WILL BE SCRATCHED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE IN VIEW INCREASED OIL PRICES.

5. NEW WESTINGHOUSE REP SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED WESTINGHOUSE VERY INTERESTED IN MAKING JOINT-BID WITH BELGIAN FIRM ON POURNARI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. WESTINGHOUSE WOULD PROVIDE THREE 111 MVA WATER-WHEEL GENERATORS HAVING A TOTAL VALUE OF \$6 TO 7 MILLION, AND REGARDS THIS OFFER AS OPPORTUNITY FOR ENTREE TO SERIES OF PPC HYDROPROJECTS.

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